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Church attack sprang from 'domestic situation'

ERIC GAY AP

A day after the shooting in their church, Pastor Frank Pomeroy and his wife, Sherri, joined a Monday news conference near the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas. The Pomeroys' daughter Annabelle, 14, was among the 26 killed in the shooting.

BY EVA RUTH MORAVEC AND MARK BERMAN
Washington Post

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TEXAS

The massacre of more than two dozen churchgoers – the youngest of whom was just 18 months old – occurred amid an ongoing "domestic situation" involving the gunman and his relatives, some of whom had attended the church, law enforcement officials said Monday.

Also on Monday, the Air Force launched an internal review into why it failed to provide key information to the FBI that should have prevented the attacker from purchasing firearms. While serving in the Air Force, the gunman – Devin Patrick Kelley, 26 – was convicted by a general court-martial on two charges of domestic assault.

> "WE ATE TOGETHER, WE LAUGHED TOGETHER, WE CRIED TOGETHER AND WE WORSHIPPED TOGETHER. NOW MOST OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY IS GONE. ... PLEASE DON'T FORGET SUTHERLAND SPRINGS.
>
> ***Sherri Pomeroy, wife of the pastor and mother of a 14-year-old shooting victim***

The Air Force said his offense was not entered into a national database, which meant he was able to pass background checks to purchase weapons. Kelley was convicted on charges of assaulting his then-wife and stepson and served 12 months in confinement before being released in 2014 with a bad-conduct discharge.

"Federal law prohibited him from buying or possessing firearms after this conviction," Ann Stefanek, an Air Force spokeswoman, said in a statement.

In the aftermath of Sunday's attack, investigators had questioned how Kelley, who spent a year behind bars, was able to purchase guns and pass state background checks for jobs. The Air Force's oversight appeared to allow Kelley's gun purchases to proceed despite a law meant to keep him from obtaining firearms.

While authorities have not

SEE SHOOTING, 2A

Voters get say on KCI, local races

BY BILL TURQUE
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Voters across the Kansas City region go to the polls today to decide on a slew of local candidates and issues, including mayors, school board members and the fate of a proposed new single terminal for Kansas City International Airport.

After years of study, debate and controversy, Kansas Citians will be asked to replace the three-1970s-era "horseshoes" with a new privately-financed passenger terminal. There is no tax increase required for the $1 billion venture, the biggest public works project in the city's history. Officials have promised that it will be built and operated exclusively with money from airlines, passengers and other airport users.

Political and business leaders waged an intensive 45-day campaign to persuade voters a new airport is a critical economic development engine and a signature gateway heralding the city's rising national stature.

SEE VOTE, 8A

Frank White suddenly faces new challenge to authority as Jackson County leader

BY MIKE HENDRICKS
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Former Kansas City Royals great Frank White seldom whiffed during his playing career, but as Jackson County executive he's been striking out more and more lately.

Monday was such a day. As expected, the county legislature overrode what even White recognized as a futile veto of an Oct. 25 ordinance creating three well-paid jobs that duplicate duties already performed by White's staff.

But perhaps more important, legislators quietly began laying the groundwork for stripping White of his power to appoint the director of an agency that dispenses more than $20 million in anti-drug sales tax money each year.

Under the proposal, the county prosecutor would appoint the COMBAT director, returning to the arrangement

SEE WHITE, 8A

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Jackson County Executive Frank White has issued his first veto, but it was overridden Monday.

LOCAL

RACIST GRAFFITI ON STUDENT'S CAR WAS A FRAUD

The Kansas State University student who reported that his car was defaced has admitted to painting the racist slurs. Police have decided to not press charges. **4A**

BUSINESS

SPRINT TO FOCUS ON WIRELESS

After the collapse of merger talks with T-Mobile, Sprint will make wireless networks a top priority. **6A**

IN DEPTH

COUNTRY MUSIC CAUGHT IN BIND

After the shooting at a festival in Las Vegas, country music is finding it difficult to keep clear of politics. **12A**

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